

Welfare Department

~2005 REPORT~

In New Hampshire, each town has a welfare office that is governed by State Statute (RSA 165), which reads, "Whenever a person in any town is poor and unable to support himself, he shall be relieved and maintained by the overseers of public welfare of such town, whether or not he has a residence there." As with all towns, Milford is legally obligated to assist those who qualify, regardless of funds budgeted.

It is the responsibility of the Town Welfare Department to determine who meets both the financial and non-financial criteria to receive financial assistance. Applications are thoroughly reviewed and there is no tolerance for fraud. Any individual found guilty of fraudulently accepting Town funds may be prosecuted for a crime.

The goal of the Department is to set people up for success, while keeping in mind that this is intended to be temporary, emergency assistance. Clients are treated fairly and consistently, while considering the unique circumstances for each client.

There are a number of State and Federal issues, which have an impact on local welfare. These areas of concern, along with others, will be monitored and addressed at the local level. These items include Medicare - Part D, Medicaid changes, workforce housing (and the lack thereof), minimum wage (and the lack of an increase), and the homeless (identifying and addressing the causes).



While the quantity of applicants has not greatly increased, cases are becoming more complex and involved, often dealing with medications and

mental illness. In order to meet the residents' needs and provide more office coverage, a second part-time staff member was hired. Joi Harris joined the Department in the fall, thereby increasing office coverage and assisting with the daily office responsibilities.

Statistics - The overall number of residents qualifying for financial assistance and the amount expended in 2005 was comparable to that of the prior year. However, prescription and medical expenses have doubled, and this trend of high medical costs is expected to continue. The amount of assistance provided is tracked by the number of cases, or "clients" that are seen. A client is the household being represented - it could be an individual or a family. Approximately 30% of the clients are assisted only one time, while 70% are assisted multiple times.

Client Meetings – Met with clients at scheduled appointments. 298
This figure is made up of 182 clients, of which 25% were denied.

No Shows – Scheduled appointments, but clients failed to appear. 144

Contacts – Via telephone or “drop in.” No financial assistance provided, but referred to other agencies.

165

Quantity of Known Homeless

12 clients (28 individuals)

Welfare Expenditures (Unaudited figures)

Rent	\$145,048.99
Temporary Housing	\$ 2,318.65 (motels or shelters)
Medical	\$ 23,135.34
Utilities*	\$ 10,160.77
Other	\$ 2,067.75 (burials, vehicles, etc.)
Food*	<u>\$ 392.98</u>
Total \$ expended for Direct Relief	\$183,124.48
Budgeted Amount for Direct Relief	\$183,803.00

* The dollar amounts for both Utilities and Food could potentially be higher, but a significant amount of clients are assisted via Southern NH Services and SHARE, rather than the Town.



Reimbursements

Social Security Interim Assistance	\$ 7,504.30
Cash Reimbursements	\$ 3,674.03
Other Town reimbursements	\$ 2,922.65
Liens	\$ 7,675.36
Welfare to Work (client works and amount earned is credited to assistance they have received)	<u>\$ 217.00</u>
Total	<u>\$21,993.34</u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Brown
Welfare Director